

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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CURTIS SINGLETON,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOANNE LANE, *et al.*,

Defendants.

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ORDER

12-cv-415-wmc

Plaintiff Singleton filed this civil action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, concerning the conditions of his confinement in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. At plaintiff's request, the court has recruited counsel Lynn M. Stathas of the highly-regarded law firm of Reinhart Boerner Van Dueren, S.C., in Madison, Wisconsin, to represent him *pro bono* for the remainder of this civil action. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) ("The court may request an attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel."); *Pruitt v. Mote*, 503 F.3d 647, 653-54 (7th Cir. 2007) (en banc) (noting that § 1915(e)(1) confers, at most, discretion "to recruit a lawyer to represent an indigent civil litigant *pro bono publico*"). Accordingly, the court will enter her appearance as plaintiff's *pro bono* counsel for the record.<sup>1</sup>

The next step is for the court to hold a status conference for purposes of entering a new scheduling order. Plaintiff's counsel should contact the Wisconsin Department of Corrections for purposes of consulting with plaintiff in the preparation of his case whether by phone and/or in person. So that counsel will have sufficient time to consult

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<sup>1</sup> Counsel may file a separate notice of appearance, if necessary, to designate any other attorney with the Reinhart law firm who may be responsible for this case.

with plaintiff in advance of the status conference, the clerk's office will be directed to set that conference before the undersigned in June 2014, as the court's schedule allows.

Finally, plaintiff should appreciate that his counsel took on this representation out of a sense of professional responsibility, which includes representing zealously those clients they take on. Now that he is represented by counsel, plaintiff is advised that in return for representation plaintiff, too, has taken on a responsibility. For example, all future communications with the court must be through his attorney of record. Plaintiff must also work directly and cooperatively with his attorney, as well as those working at his direction, and must permit them to exercise their professional judgment to determine which matters are appropriate to bring to the court's attention and in what form. Plaintiff does not have the right to require counsel to raise frivolous arguments or to follow every directive he makes. On the contrary, plaintiff should expect his counsel to tell him what he *needs* to hear, rather than what he might prefer to have heard, and understand that the rules of professional conduct may preclude counsel from taking certain actions or permitting him from doing so. Accordingly, plaintiff must be prepared to accept the strategic decisions made by his lawyers even if he disagrees with some of them.

If plaintiff decides at some point that he does not wish to work with his lawyers, he is free to alert the court and end their representation, but he should be aware that it is highly unlikely that the court will recruit a second set of attorneys to represent him.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the clerk's office enter Lynn M. Stathus of Reinhart Boerner Van Dueren, S.C., as plaintiff's *pro bono* counsel of record and to set this case for a status conference in June 2014, as this court's schedule allows.

Entered this 23rd day of April, 2014.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

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WILLIAM M. CONLEY  
District Judge